

suffering from exhausting diarrhoea, during the process of dentition, and simply send it across the river to one of the country villages, and mark the change even within a few hours. What is a source of misery to the poor man, must affect the rich, and hence we observe that :

“In the perfum'd chambers of the great,
Under the canopies of costly state,”

the grim messenger will occasionally make his appearance, and claim his victim.

But as we observed, there are other sources of disease or rather other causes of mortality in disease than overcrowding.

Some little stress has been laid on the lack of sewer ventilation, and we think there exists good grounds for complaint. The question of sewerage has always been a perplexing one, and how to dispose of sewage in large towns. We should fancy that a large river like the St. Lawrence, in front of Montreal, which runs at the rate of five miles an hour, is not likely to be affected by the sewage of the town if it were three times the size; but independent of the injury likely to accrue to the river, people will estimate the immense loss of valuable irrigation matter which is simply got rid of, and which might be utilized—true, but then this system of utilizing sewage cannot be carried out without danger, as has been proved at Croydon, in the vicinity of London, and other localities. This is a subject in itself so vast, that we cannot go into it at the present time, besides it is somewhat foreign to our argument. We have started with the purpose of trying to ascertain the causes which affect our mortality, and especially the infant death rate which is unquestionably high.

The high rate of death amongst infants in this city, appears to be due to our generally defective sanitary condition, and not to any one of the numerous causes which have from time to time been alleged. Over-crowding in the houses of the poor is a fruitful source of the death rate, this is more especially observed in the houses of the poorer class of French Canadians. The existence of defective drainage in certain localities, or of old cess-pools, or even where neither of these conditions is met with, as in some of the better class of houses, the sewerage pipes actually worn out, and if examined would be found in a honey-combed state.

From a recent paper published by Dr. Andrew Fergus, of Glasgow, it would appear that the duration of a leaden soil pipe to the ordinary water closet varies from a minimum of eight to a maximum of twenty years: Dr. Fergus has during a series of observations extending over 15 years, proved that leaden soil pipes become perforated along their upper surface—this condition he